

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 05905 190315Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/066 W

-----123031 190320Z /66

R 190155Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5505
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANIAL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 5905

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MY, CH
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER, PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT CHINA?

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 3794 DTG 030654Z MAY 78

1. ON JUNE 16 THE CHINESE LANGUAGE DAILY NANYANG
SIANG PAU CARRIED AN AFP SOTRY DATELINES KUALA
LUMPUR REPORTING THAT LOCAL "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES"
HAVE SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER TENGKU AHMAD
RITHAUDDEEN WILL VISIT PEKING IN SEPTEMBER "TO PAVE
THE WAY" FOR A VISIT TO THE PRC BY PRIME MINISTER
HUSSEIN ONN TOWARD THE END OF THE YEAR. THE REPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUALA 05905 190315Z

WAS NOT CARRIED IN EITHER THE ENGLISH OR THE MALAY PRESS.

2. AN MFA OFFICIAL DEALING WITH PRC AFFAIRS TOLD
EMBOFF JUNE 16 THAT CHINESE PROPOSED A
SEPTEMBER DATE AFTER RITHAUDDEEN'S SPRING TRIP
WAS CALLED OFF (REFTEL), BUT THAT THE GOM HAS NOT
YET AGREED TO THE PROPOSAL SINCE THEY MUST WAIT

UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS BEFORE MAKING A DECISION.
AS THE OFFICIAL SAID, "TENGKU RITHAUDDEEN MIGHT
NOT EVEN BE FOREIGN MINISTER IN SEPTEMBER." THE
OFFICIAL NEITHER CONFIRMED NOR DENIED THE REPORT
THAT PM HUSSEIN WOULD VISIT CHINA, BUT EXPRESSED
MYSTIFICATION AS TO THE SOURCE OF THE AFP STORY.
HE SAID THAT THE STORY SHOULD BE TAKEN IN THE
LIGHT OF THE COMING ELECTION, I.E., IT COULD ONLY
BE TREATED AS SPECULATIVE UNTIL THINGS SETTLE
DOWN AND FINAL DECISIONS CAN BE MADE AFTER THE
ELECTION.

3. IN DISCUSSING THE AFP STORY WITH AN EMBOFF,
A JAPANESE COLLEAGUE COMMENTED THAT HE HAD HEARD
THAT THE MAIN REASON RITHAUDDEEN'S SPRING TRIP WAS
CALLED OFF WAS THAT THE PRC WAS PLANNING A
MAJOR CONFERENCE ON THE OVERSEAS CHINESE AT THE
SAME TIME THE VISIT WAS PLANNED AND THE CHINESE
FELT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE MALAYSIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER TO BE IN CHINA AT THAT
TIME. THE GOM UNDOUBTEDLY AGREED.

4. COMMENT. THE LEAK ON RITHAUDDEEN'S POSSIBLE
TRIP TO PEKING CAN BE TAKEN IN THE LIGHT OF THE
UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE. THE
IDEA OF A VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PRC.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUALA 05905 190315Z

EVEN IF JUST IN THE TALKING STAGE, WOULD HAVE
GREAT APPEAL TO THE MALAYSIAN CHINESE AND COULD BE USED
BY THE RULING NATIONAL FRONT IN URBAN AREAS
DURING THE CAMPAIGN. (THE FACT THAT THE STORY
APPEARED FIRST IN THE CHINESE PRESS (AND ON THE
FRONT PAGE) IS A MEASURE OF THE IDEA'S APPEAL
AMONG THE MALAYSIAN CHINESE.) AN ACTUAL
VISIT TO CHINA BEFORE THE ELECTION WOULD, OF COURSE
HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE AMONG THE
CHINESE ELECTORATE, BUT COULD ALSO HAVE
BEEN USED BY THE CONSERVATIVE MALAY OPPOSITION
AGAINST THE NATIONAL FRONT IN MALAY AREAS.
ROSENTHAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUALA05905
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780254-0826
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780645/aaaabmre.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c4fc4086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KUALA LUMPUR 3794
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2301363
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER, PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT CHINA?
TAGS: PEPR, MY, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c4fc4086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014